THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFULPATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Of the 63 Pilots who had sought 'No Objection Certificate; to join other airlines 59 Pilots have withdrawn their requests. Remaining 4 Pilots also are continuing in the service of Indian Airlines and are performing their duties regularly.

(c) Yes, Sir. In Indian Airlines' estimate, the present salary structure is in line with the market conditions.

Losses to IA on Discounted Fares

†2216. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines will have to suffer economic loss as a result of making air travel cheaper;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the scheme for compensating the said loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. Indian Airlines in order to remain competitive in the market, keeps on offering promotional fares/ schemes from time to time on various sectors depending on the market dynamics. In Indian Airlines' estimate, the gains likely to be made by winning over new passenger segments outweigh the marginal loss of yield per passenger on the limited number of seats offered under such schemes.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Aircraft-Employee Ratio

2217. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the Aircraft-employee ratio of Indian Airlines and Air India separately;

(b) the seat-employee ratio of Indian Airlines and Air India separately;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.